

KING'S HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



History of Colmore Road Primary School

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Colmore Road Admission Registers 1921 – 1940

There were three official books in every board school set up following the 1870 Education Act: the Log Book covering weekly events; the Class Register marked morning and afternoon; the Admission Register giving details of every child entering the school. As the allowance for the year partly depended on the number of children on roll and the number present day by day these last two were regularly inspected by a member of the board and the fact noted in the log book.

Colmore Road Infant School began in January 1909 in Kings Heath House in the park and moved to the new premises in Colmore Road in April 1911. The building was taken over as a military hospital in 1915 and staff and pupils moved to join Kings Heath School until 1919.



Colmore Road School as a military hospital it was an annexe of the First Southern Military Hospital (Birmingham University) and had 225 beds.

The only register I saw began in 1921 and finished in 1940. It showed the child's entry number which was kept even if the child left and returned; name in full; name and address of parent or guardian; date of birth; previous school if any; date of last attendance and reason for leaving if any. A child could be removed from the register if of age i.e. for the senior school; was dead; was unfit to attend; moved to another area, had been absent for four weeks with no information available.

The First Admissions

The first on the register was Gabrielle from Kimberley Canada and living in Grange Road. She left four months later to go to a private school. During February nine others were admitted, eight of whom were aged five. They all lived locally in Grove Road, Mossfield Road and Grange Road. A seven year old came with her five year old sister having moved from Essex. From then until the end of the school year in July another

nine aged five were admitted. There was no child under the age of five but the priority was to admit them close to their birthday. This must have presented difficulties for the reception class teacher having new children join throughout the year. In addition eight aged six and seven were also admitted. Two addresses are interesting: one seven year old girl from Percy Road School was living at number one Bungalow, Broad lane and another from Croydon was living at Searchlight Villa, Brandwood Road. A seven year old boy was living at The Paddocks, Alcester Lane's End. Of this early intake some moved to Colmore Road Senior Boys' or Girls' Schools; one went to Fashoda Road School which in the parlance of the day was "a school for the mentally defectives"; one six year old boy went to Australia.

1921 – 1925

At the beginning of the school year in August 1921, 32 children were admitted, five of whom were aged five. Twins living in The Worthings, which is off Fordhouse Lane, came but later left to go to Cotteridge School. One seven year old girl from Aldershot and living at the Drill Hall, Mossfield Road, stayed only a week before moving to Kings Heath School. During the rest of 1921 there were a number who moved from private schools in Kings Heath.

In February 1922 there is the first mention of children living in Waldron's Moor, which runs off Allenscroft Road. In the early twenties Birmingham purchased many of the farms in Kings Heath in order to build new estates to house people who were being moved from the City Centre. Pineapple was one of these estates but when Pineapple School was built in 1923 the children left Colmore Road to go. Other children came as before from local addresses: Kings Road; Albert Road; Vicarage Road; Bank Street; Station Road; etc. One of the nearest was a girl from Red Lion Cottages in Vicarage Road and two further way were from New Cottage and New Lodge Monyhull Colony.

There were unfortunately two deaths in 1925 from the 1923 intake. A seven year old girl died in March and a boy in May also aged seven. No details are given only the stark entry in the column marked "Reason for Leaving - Dead." Another child from Red Lion Cottages came in 1924 and another came from further afield namely Durham. He was living in May Lane with a guardian but left in February 1925 aged 6.5 years to go to Dr Barnados Homes. Twin boys from Northfield, living in Mossfield Road, came on February 4th 1924 but stayed only until February 20th before returning to Northfield. A brother and sister with the surname Misani came and eventually went to respective senior schools. Seven year old Eric came from Princess Alexandra Orphanage and moved to the seniors a year later. A boy from St Dunstan's private school was excluded from religious studies lessons and later two more boys were excluded - this would have been at the request of parents. A boy who came from the private school in Kings Heath Institute was removed from the register after four weeks continued absence with no contact with the parents despite visits from the Attendance Officer known as the 'School Board Man.'

In March 1925 a girl and two boys came from the same address in Grange Road having moved from Golden Hillock School. The boys and the girl had different surnames. The boys' mother was the guardian of all three and so presumably the girl may have been a half sister. Educational boundary changes meant that a boy living at Brickyard, Mill Pool Hill and a boy from Canalside had to leave as they lived beyond 'statutory distance.' William who came in June 1925 unfortunately died in September 1926 aged six and a little girl was in the school for one month before being moved to the Blind School. Another girl was caught by the boundary changes and had to leave after two years in the school.

1926 - 1930

However the authorities seemed to be in a state of flux over these changes as Teresa from Mill Pool Hill was readmitted in February 1926 having left in September 1925. Then in April 1926 the boy from Canalside was readmitted. Both children gave their last school as Colmore Road so it appears that neither had any schooling during the interim period. John Coppock came in June 1928. His father was a teacher in the senior boys' school. Most youngsters who came remained but little Sidney had an unfortunate somewhat yo-yo education. He came in November 1924 aged five and left in January 1925 to go to Hastings; he returned in May 1925 but left in October 1925 to go to Blackpool. He came back three months later in January 1926 and stayed until July 1927 when he moved to the boys' school. Was the father's occupation responsible for the moves or some other reason? We shall never know.

In 1926 two brothers came from Ontario Canada and at the same time eight boys and six girls came from the Pineapple Estate having moved from city centre schools: Ellen Street, Tindal Street and Rea Street. Kenneth from Brandwood Golf Club left after 6 months to go to Earlswood. Tragedy struck Mr Coppock and his family when his younger son James died in September 1927 aged 5 and a half.

In 1927 a little girl came from 2, High Street, this would have been next to the doctor's surgery on the corner of Valentine Road and High Street. A Jewish girl was excluded from daily prayers and the New Testament part of the Religious Education syllabus. Three left for overseas in August 1927. A five year old boy went to Canada and a six year old boy and a six year old girl went to Australia. Irene came in September 1927; left to go to Leicester in November 1928 and returned in 1929 for a month before returning to Leicester for two months. She was re-admitted in July 1929 and moved to the junior school in July 1930.

In May 1929 seven year old Cissie came from the fire station in Silver Street having previously been at Tindal School. Five year old Robert came from Park Lodge in Kings Heath Park. He left to go to Bristol after eight months but returned two months later and finally went to the junior school in July 1931. Peter, Cissie's brother came in July 1930.

1930's

In May 1930 the first medical examinations were held. It was also a year of school reorganisation. The senior boys' school closed and reopened in August 1930 as a mixed junior school taking children aged 8 – 11. Boys over the age of 11 moved to Kings Heath. The changes did not affect the infants' school as it continued to take five to eight year olds. Miss Ward who had opened the school in 1909 remained as head of the school with a staff of eight and classes of fifty children.

Kings Heath had changed considerably during the 1930s and would continue to do so during the next decade. Much of farm land had disappeared and was replaced by new council estates such as Pineapple, Warstock and Dad's Lane etc as well as private building in May Lane, Wheelers' Lane and Haunch Lane.

There were also some changes in the popularity of children's first names in the 1930s. In 1921 the most popular girls' name had been Irene, closely followed by Kathleen, Dorothy, Violet and Eileen. There were a few "old fashioned" names in use such as Adeline, Amelia, Beatrice, Freda, Grace and Jessie. The most popular boys' names were Arthur, Frank, William, Kenneth, Norman, Andrew and Donald. Some older ones prevailed such as Herbert, Walter and Reginald. During this period Frances appeared as a girl's name and Francis for a boy. Leslie was introduced for both boys and girls. In 1931 the most popular girl's name was Margaret followed by Mary, Joan, Jean, Barbara, Doris, Patricia, and Pauline. Violet and Eileen had disappeared and Irene and Kathleen were less common. New names began to appear such as Audrey, Beryl, Cynthia, Mavis and Sylvia. The most popular boy's name was John followed by Gerald, Peter and Raymond. Less frequently used names included Desmond, Howard and Graham. Boys' names continued to remain formal unlike the girls which included names such as Gwenva, Netta, Desiree and Berenice. The children's addresses also reflected the changes. The majority came from local roads in Kings Heath such as Kings Road; Vicarage Road; Grove Road, Westfield Road etc. In 1931 following the building bonanza children also came from Haunch lane, May lane; Alcester Road South; Brentfield Road; Pineapple Road and Dad's lane.

In 1931 Alan came from park House but he and his family left the area in 1934. A girl previously at a private school came from the Red Lion in Grove Road. In late 1931 three sets of twins arrived much to the joy (?) of the teacher in the reception class. Miss Ward was taken ill in April 1931 and died in October that year. The new Head Mistress Miss Tetley was appointed in January 1932. This was followed by two other deaths in the school Betty aged five and Dorothy aged six who died in September and October respectively. No reasons were given but the log book frequently spoke of epidemics including measles, whooping cough and mumps, all of which were common, and still lethal amongst young children.

The registers show that 236 children were admitted between August 1931 and July 1932. 193 of these children were aged five. The movement to the junior school was either February or July but as the junior school was full the infants could not move on so an extra class was put in the hall but had to be disbanded when the teacher left to get married. This meant that the eight remaining classes numbered fifty five plus. By September 1933 the problem was eased as there was yet another change to the boundaries.



Colmore Road Infants School, parents' day 1933.

Dorothy Grove the daughter of the caretaker at the School House, Grove Road started at the Colmore Road in October 1932. Iris from the Pineapple Hotel started in April 1934, whilst Doreen aged five left in July 1934 to go to Dr Barnados. A seven year old boy went to Uffculme open air school, whilst two sisters came from Cemetery Lodge, Woodthorpe Road but left a year later to move to Leatherhead.

Medals were issued in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George and Queen Mary and a tree was planted in the playground. Entry to the school remained steady throughout 1935 and 1936. In December 1936 both the headmistress, Miss Tetley and her chief assistant Miss Kershaw retired. The latter had been at the school since 1910. Miss Bott came as headmistress in January 1937. The coronation was celebrated with the crowning of a king and queen chosen by the children followed by a concert and tea.

Some pupils entering the school in 1936 and expecting to go to the junior school left early in March 1939 to go to the newly opened Wheelers' Lane school. This replaced the

now empty Kings Heath School. For others however, who expected to go to junior school in September 1939 found their plans thwarted by a certain Adolf Hitler. Evacuation plans had first been discussed by parents in 1938 and now a year later were put into operation. Colmore Road Schools were not officially evacuated although parents could arrange something privately. All schools in Birmingham were closed as there were no air raid shelters. This situation continued until October that year. Children could return voluntarily but by January the following year shelters had been built and so schooling was once again compulsory. However the shelter space was limited and so there was part time schooling for a while. Many of those children, who had been evacuated, returned home when the expected bombing had not started. When the raids did begin in 1940 an official evacuation was organised and many children moved out to Kirkby in Ashfield. It would be some time before the admission registers got back to normality. The last entry in 1939 was 28 August. There were no more until 11 March 1940 when 68 children were registered.

Colmore Road Boys'/Junior School Admission Register 1909 – 1969

Colmore Road Senior Mixed School opened in August 1909 in a temporary building on the site of the new schools. Mr Mann, the Headmaster, had a staff of six teachers and he registered 111 boys and 136 girls. He had, like all other board schools, a log book, admission register and class registers. The two latter were regularly inspected by a member of the board, and the fact recorded in the log book.

The admission register measured about 10" by 14" and cost 6/6d (32½p).

The first page carried detailed instructions on how it should be kept. Only the head or his deputy could fill it in. It had to show the child's entry number which he kept even if he left and then returned; date of admission; name in full; name and address of parent or guardian; date of birth; last school, if any attended; date of last attendance and reason for leaving.

A child could be removed from the register if of age; was dead; was unfit to attend; moved to another area; had been absent for four weeks with no information available.

The first entry was Frederick Charles Sutton, born August 1896 so aged 13. He lived in Vicarage Road and had come from the overcrowded Kings Heath School. He left in July 1910 - QBA (Qualified By Age). Number 5 on the register was the first girl, Florence Edith Willis, born July 1896. She lived in Kings Road and also left in July 1910. In all, 50 children had moved from Kings Heath School; 73 infants came from The White House in Kings Heath Park, and a few from other schools: Yardley Wood, Moseley, Cotteridge and Stirchley, and three from private schools. Most lived locally, with 93 from Kings Road; 53 from Highbury Road; 14 from Vicarage Road; 22 from Grove Road; 18 from Avenue Road; 14 from Station Road and 10 from Grange Road. Smaller numbers came from Balaclava Road, Silver Street and All Saints Road. There was also one from Fordhouse Lane.

In the 1909 intake was Jenny from Woodthorpe Road, born 1896 and eldest of a family of four; William born 1899; Fred born 1900 and John born 1902. He left in 1915 on a temporary basis for "work in agriculture" but never returned. Another girl lived at Mill Pool Hill and came from Yardley Wood School but returned there after three months.

Florence lived at Yew Tree Cottage, Mill Pool Hill, but she too moved to Yardly Wood School after a month. Edward left at the age of 12, having won a scholarship to an unspecified grammar school, and Malcolm left at 13 "on doctor's orders". Poor Kate left in 1911 aged 10 to go to the workhouse, and George aged 13 was sent to Industrial School. Jessie lived with her parents at Priory Lodge on Vicarage Road so father worked for the Cartland family.

The boys' names in the first entry were of the age: Fred, William, Robert, Raymond and Edward, although one boy was called Ingle, as was his father. The girls likewise: Florence, Edith, Elsie and Daisy.

In August 1910, 46 boys came from the infant school but no girls, although some girls came from other parts of Birmingham. In August 1911, the three schools moved to their new premises and the temporary building was demolished. The infants moved from the park to the block nearest Grove Road; the senior girls to the centre block and the boys to the block nearest Howard Road. Nineteen boys came from Kings Heath School and 24 from the infants. The first set of twins, Alan and Alexander, from Fordhouse Lane, was registered; they left in 1915 to go to Kings Norton Grammar School. A boy aged nine was sent to reformatory school in 1912. He returned three months later, but left the district the following year. Ten year old George left in 1912 to go to Uffculme Open Air School and was there for a year, returning in 1913 and finally leaving in 1916.

In August 1911, 77 boys were admitted from the infant school. Charles was excluded from Religious Education classes and left after three months to go to a Roman Catholic school. Five boys left to go to grammar school, but Albert, aged 12 was sent to a Mentally Defective school, and Fred aged nine left to a Consumption Home. William Pepper, son of the school caretaker, came from School House in Grove Road. He left in 1916 to go to Moseley C of E School. In November 1911, Kings Heath, Moseley, Kings Norton etc. became part of Birmingham and the school moved under the jurisdiction of Birmingham Education Department.

In early 1912, three brothers, Fred, Alfred and George, came from the Cottage Homes. George, the eldest, left in July, being old enough, and the other two remained until old enough to leave. Walter and Bernard lived at The Lodge, Kings Heath Park, having come from Cape Hill. Edgar came from Priory Farm, having moved from Claine's in Worcestershire. In August 1912, 106 were admitted so there were 379 boys in eight standards. The headmaster asked for more desks as classes of 48 plus meant that there were three to a desk. It was December, however, before 25 locker type desks arrived.

Joseph came from Harvard, USA, but left the district three months later. George, aged 9, and his eleven year old brother went to the Blue Coat School on October 1914.

Of the 1913 early 1914 intake, Terence moved to Uffculme; Bernard came from South Hill Farm, Brandwood, and Harry and his brother Frank came from Kings Heath Mews. They both left at 13 to go to Suffolk Street.

Sixty three entered on 14th August 1914 to find the staff seriously depleted. War had been declared on 4th August and four of the staff had joined up immediately. It was over a month before they were replaced. At Christmas, the staff consisted of Mr Mann, one male teacher, and seven women teachers. Of the August intake, Wilfred and Leslie came from Belgrave Villas, Mill Pool Hill, and William came from Mill Pool Hill Farm. Two brothers came from Broadland Farm, Brandwood End. Charlie aged 12 was sent to Reformatory in 1915.

In October 1914, two brothers, Edward and Josef, came from Belgium. They were housed with other refugees in The White House in Kings Heath Park. Edward left in December as he was old enough, and Josef moved to a private school. Increasingly during 1915 and 1916 more and more mothers were entered as guardians as the men went off to war. In April 1915, the three departments closed and the buildings were

used as a military hospital. Pupils and staff moved to Kings Heath to do part time schooling for the next four years.

Two sets of twins came in 1913, along with Francis from Sladepool Farm. He was allowed to leave early to help on the farm. In early 1916, Reginald and Fred came from Priory Lodge, Vicarage Road. Their previous address was Lancashire. George, aged ten, died in July 1916.

Sixty two came from the infants in August 1916. One familiar name was Leonard Marks, who came from the Cemetery Works in Woodthorpe Road. From The Hare and Hounds came brothers Reginald and Leslie plus Fred, son of one of the men working there. The brothers left in 1917 and Fred in 1919 and reason for leaving was "left the district". Edward, a previous pupil at Silver Street, Hollywood, came from The White Cottage, Hollywood.

Of the 1917 intake, David left for Australia in 1923, just before his official leaving date. Thomas came in 1917; left the district in 1921; returned in February; left to the Blue Coat School in May 1921; returned in May 1923 and left two months later "qualified by age".

The 1917 intake also included many boys from other parts of Birmingham: Dennis Road: Aston; Cotteridge; Yardley Wood; etc. and some even further afield: Ramsgate; Hampstead; Abbots Bromley; Dudley and Manchester.

Of the entry in August 1918, Holnan left in January 1920 to go to the partially sighted school, and William in 1923 to the cripples' home. He returned a year later and finally left in 1924, QBA. Clement was in school for only ten months when he died in June 1919.

The war ended in November 1918 but only a third of the boys were there to hear the announcement and sing some patriotic songs before going home for two days holiday as the flu epidemic was raging in Kings Heath, as it was throughout the rest of the world.

For the same reason, school closed early for Christmas on 6th December.

In November 1919, the school returned to Colmore Road and full time education. Leon, who came in early 1919, left for Australia in 1922 aged ten but Stanley, also aged ten, died in December 1922. Of the 1919/20 intake, James came from the Red Lion Cottages in Vicarage Road but moved to the newly opened Pineapple School in 1923. Francis came from America but stayed only twelve days before leaving the district. Three brothers, Ronald, Eric and Ken came from Canada in March 1920 but returned there after two months. Edward also came from Canada in September 1920 and also stayed for two months. William and Edward, originally from Aldershot, came from the Drill Hall, Mossfield Road. Charles aged 11 came from Fashoda Road School but after a month was moved to the cripples' home.

In the early twenties, Birmingham purchased many farms in Kings Heath in order to build new estates for people living in the centre of the city; so new housing appeared at Billesley, Warstock, Pineapple etc. as well as private dwellings in Wheelers Lane, May Lane and Haunch Lane. So between August 1921 and April 1923, large numbers came from Allenscroft Road but then left in 1923 when Pineapple School was opened. Similarly, those from Billesley estate left when their school opened.

George came from the fire station in Silver Street. Of those coming in early 1924, nine year old Bernard died in January 1925 and ten year old James died in May 1926. Charles emigrated to Canada in July 1924, having been in school for six months, and Harold aged ten moved to the Middlemore Homes in February 1924.

In 1925 John came from the Hare and Hounds, having come originally from Edgbaston.

He left in 1925 QBA. Brothers Harry and James came from Crabmill Lane, Hollywood, having been at Silver Street School, Hollywood. Stanley came from Raddlebarn Road School and emigrated with his brother to Tasmania in 1928; Joe aged nine left to go to an orphanage in 1927 and Brian, nearly ten, died in June 1927. Herbert, another member of the Mustin family in Woodthorpe Road, came in February 1926 but Leslie, who came from Cemetery Lodge, Brandwood End, left the district in 1927. Jeffrey came from the fire station in Silver Street but Trevor had a shorter journey as he lived in Red Lion Cottages, Vicarage Road. Claude from America came in early 1926 and left in April 1930 QBA.

Arulanthonatha Selvarajah, who lived in Maurice Road, came aged 11 in late 1925. His father's name is not specified but the space left blank. He left in 1927 to go to Kings Norton Grammar School. Richard lived at the Valley Public House in Haunch Lane and went on to Aston Commercial in December 1929. Leslie, another boy from Canada, came aged 10 in 1927 and went to grammar school in 1929. Roland Coppuck, living in Taylor Road, was the son of Mr Coppock who had been a teacher at the school since 1921. Three more boys came from Mill Pool Hill. Charles, whose address was 2 Canalside, came up from the infants; Douglas came at the same time but moved after a month to go to Yardley Wood School and Alfred from The Hawthorns moved to the Blue Coat School in April 1928. Ronald came from Canada but left the district six months later in March 1928 and Jaime Lorenzo Villanueva, living in Alcester Road South, came from Acocks Green School. No father's name was given.

A boy came in August 1927 aged 8 who had no previous schooling so was sent to the infant school. He returned a year later and moved to the boys' school in 1930. The names in 1927 were of the time – most popular being John and Charles but also James, Donald, Eric and Walter and twins Dennis and William. Less numerous were Lawrence, Alfred and Maurice. Of that August 1927 intake, most went to the senior boys' department but two went to a Mentally Deficient school, one to Uffculme and three to grammar school. Those not from the infant school still came from a wide variety of places - St Albans, Liverpool, Hythe and Canada. In 1928 a few different names appeared – Nathaniel, Ivan, Bertram and Beric. Thirty one entered between January and May 1930 – the last intake before the change to the junior school. Two brothers came from The Hawthorn Bungalow, Mill Pool Hill, another boy came from Yardley Sanatorium and another from Uffculme.

In September 1930, the school changed from a senior boys' school to a mixed junior school taking children aged eight to eleven. The older boys moved to Kings Heath Senior School while the junior intake consisted of 164 infants and 119 from the senior girls' dept and the younger boys already in school. Those from the girls' dept aged 9 to 10 stayed one year before returning in July 1932. On the admission register the

boys kept their own number but the girls received a new one. The first girl was Doris Aldhouse, aged nine, so returned to the girls' dept in July 1832. Twins Betty and Jean returned after one year. Dorothy stayed six months before moving to the Blue Coat School. There was probably some resentment from the senior girls being "demoted" to junior status before returning to what they would consider to be their rightful place.

Of the girls who came, by far the most popular name was Margaret closely followed by Marjorie and Betty. There was also Edna, Joyce, Ivy and Gwendoline and Polly. Six girls had mothers as guardians and one, who left to Wolverhampton Orphanage, had a blank space in the parents column. In the junior school, there were 494 pupils with 288 boys and 206 girls. They were divided into ten classes all numbering about 50, so with eight classrooms, two classes had to be in the hall. Mr Ward, the Deputy Headmaster took a class of 50 boys only to equalise the numbers. Mr Howard had been appointed Headmaster but he died in February 1931 and Mr Downes replaced him in May 1931. Other girls in the August 1930 intake were Cissie, who lived at the fire station in Silver Street; she left at Christmas to go to Aston. Patricia was in school for only two weeks before becoming ill and dying in October. Another death was Leslie who died in November. Of the boys, Herbert went to the Blue Coat School in April 1933, aged 10½, and twins Maurice and Douglas went to Kings Norton Grammar School in 1933. Ruby, originally from St Peter's, Harborne, came in February 1931. Her address was Haigh Place, the newly built houses opposite The Billesley in Wheelers Lane.

Of the 1931 August intake, Robert came from The Park House and twins Rosemary and Barbara parted in 1934 when one went to the senior girls' and the other to Camp Hill.

Doris was in school until October 1933 but died three months later aged 10 and Dorothy left in October 1932 to go to the Partially Blind School.

In August 1932, 130 moved up from the infants and a record number eventually left to grammar schools: with 18 going to Kings Norton; 4 to Moseley; 5 to Camp Hill and 3 to King Edwards. A boy who came in 1933 and lived in Appian Close moved to the Friends' School, Sitford.

In March 1933 came the first inoculation against diphtheria and 183 children were inoculated, although the log book does not record who or whether any parents objected.

A girl with the unusual name of Daffodil came in 1934 and Elizabeth came from The Red Lion in Vicarage Road. Her guardian was her grandmother. She went to Kings Norton Grammar School in 1937.

In 1935 Trevor came from The Park House, having previously been living in Rubery. Kenyon Rhodes came in 1936 aged 8 but moved with his mother to The Hague in March 1937. He returned in August 1938. The August 1938 intake show the first evacuees leaving in August 1939 to Astwood Bank, Worcester and Wales. They were the first of the many. There were also those evacuated with the school in late 1940 to either Sutton in Ashfield or Kirkby in Ashfield.

In 1936, Dorothy Carr, daughter of the caretaker, came but left in December 1938 to go to College Road. Kathleen also came in 1936 but unfortunately died ten months later in July 1937. Audrey came from Cemetery Lodge in Woodthorpe Road in August 1937 but left to go to Leeds three months later. Millicent Symoria Hoeline, whose father's name was Mazellof, came from Leicester, stayed for five months before moving to Selly Park in February 1938. Iris also came in August 1937 from The Hazelwell Hotel, Pineapple Road. She left to Lawrence's College in May 1938.

Kathleen came from Flat 3, The Parade, near the Kingsway Cinema. Robert came in 1938 but left after two months to go to Summer Hill Homes and Thomas, who had come to the school from St Silas C of E School, left to Summer Hill at the same time.

A meeting was held with parents in October 1938 to discuss possible evacuation plans and to issue gasmasks but the crisis passed and plans were put on hold for another twelve months. In early 1939, Julius Katz came from Basel, Switzerland. He was eleven so moved to the boys' school in July. Pat Stell came from Argentina but returned there two months later. Ruth Ofner-Oua came in July 1939 from Pilsen, Bohemia and moved to the senior girls' in 1940.

After March 1939, the boys moving to the senior school went to the newly opened Wheelers Lane School and the old Kings Heath building closed. It reopened after the war and was finally demolished in the 1980s. The admission lists were prepared for the Autumn term in 1939 but there were no entries until February 1940. At the end of August, all schools closed and the evacuation took place. All central schoolchildren were evacuated if the parents wished. Neither Colmore Road nor Wheelers Lane were officially evacuated so the teachers went to help those who were. As there were no air raid shelters, the school remained closed until October when they opened on a voluntary basis. By January 1940, shelters had been built in the playground and attendance was compulsory. Although there had been no official evacuation, many children had been evacuated privately and for the first time the school could discover where everyone was, and many and varied were the places: Malvern, Shropshire, Somerset, Wales, Solihull, Redditch, Gloucester and Pershore.

Gradually, over the early months of 1940, many evacuees returned as the expected bombing had not happened. However, in August 1940, the day and night raids started. During the worst of the bombing in October and November 1940, official evacuation was offered and many children went to Kirkby in Ashfield. It wasn't until Autumn 1941 that the school sustained some normality.

Of the February 1940 intake, twins Margaret and Reg came from Stirchley Infant School but moved to Cumberland in October; they returned two months later. June, who came from Uffculme, went to Sutton in November 1940, as did Irene who had come from Wythall. Judith, Peter and John (not related) were all evacuated privately. Ten year old twins Joseph and Edith came from Cheltenham in August 1940 and left in 1941 to Five Ways and Kings Norton. In January 1941, Jennifer came from South Africa and left in 1942 to Kings Norton. Margaret Carter came from the Station House at the railway station, was evacuated, returned in April 1941 and moved to the senior girls' in July 1942.

Only 39 came up from the infants in February 1942 but a further 86 had entered the school by July and of those 46 were returning from evacuation. These included 16 from the official evacuation to Kirkby. In February 1943, 101 came from the infant school. Stanley left in July to go to Dr Barnardos and Derek, who lived in Appian Close, left in 1945 age 11 to go to the Friends' School in Yorkshire. Michael was in school for only a month in April 1942 when he left to go to Wolverhampton Orphanage.

Audrey came in January 1943 from Acocks Green and lived at the police station. She went to Camp Hill in 1944. Eight year old Brian came in February 1943 and left in July 1945 with his younger brother John to "Worcester hop picking". They returned in October. Lily, who came from the infants in 1943, spent a month in October 1946 at the Cripples Hospital, Northfield. Rona, a neighbour of Brian, and John also went hop picking and returned in September.

In July 1944, the school served as a rest centre for evacuees from London and the Home Counties escaping the "doodle bug", i.e. the V1 and V2 rockets. Many of the children were then registered but although they had their own teacher, it made accommodation very tight: 43 came from London, Croydon and Ilford and 22 from Carshalton. Another 37 came in September 1944 from London, Surry and Middlesex.

In January 1945, Peter Watts, son of the caretaker, came from the infants. He went to Five Ways in 1948. On 7 May 1945, ten year old Joseph, ten year old Walter and his eleven year old sister Ellen came. Their address was "The Fair, Kings Heath Park". They left four days later "moved on with travelling fair". In July the same children as the previous year left to go hop picking and returned in October.

Nine year old Michael and his ten year old brother David went to the Blue Coat School in July 1947. Stephen came from New Zealand in June 1947 and moved to the senior boys in 1948. Michael, having come from Castle Bromwich in April 1947, left for South Africa in February 1948. Ann, no relation, also went to South Africa in July. She was eight and a half. Joan came in January 1948 from Hay Mills and left two months later to go Moseley Road fire station. Eleven year old Anthony left for Australia in February 1947 and brother and sister Robert and Janet came from Australia in December 1948. They eventually moved to the seniors.

In September 1951 eleven came from Doversley Road, which runs off Dawberry Fields Road, so was newly built. Two also came from Tunnel Lane but moved to Brandwood School in 1955. During the fifties there were a number leaving for overseas: Henry went to Australia in 1957; Marjorie moved to Canada in 1953; Diane to Canada in 1956; Pat to South Africa in 1956, and Veronica to California in 1957. Elizabeth came in April 1956 from BFFS in Essen Germany and moved to Harrison Barrow in 1958. Other girls leaving in 1958 didn't go to the senior girls' block but to the newly built Swanshurst School in Billesley. The middle block was then divided between the infant and junior departments, giving them much needed extra space.

A boy came from the Children's Department Home in Tunnel Lane in 1962 but moved almost immediately to a residential home. Others came from the Department's home in Sunderton Road, some moved to Bishop Challenor School and others to the

senior schools. Richard came from Kings Heath Park House in 1957 and went to Kings Heath Tech in 1961. Susan and Dorothy Eckersley moved to Cumberland in July 1961 as their father, Rev James Eckersley, Vicar of All Saints, moved to a new parish there.

Graham, whose address was Brandwood House, came from the infants but moved in 1962 to an "Army Posting". Cainwen came from Central Africa in 1960 and moved to Swanshurst in July 1961. Kenneth and Terence, brothers from Kings Heath Park House, came in 1960 and 1961. The former went to Queensbridge and the latter went to Kings Heath Tech.

In 1962, Hyacinth came from Jamaica and moved to Swanshurst in 1966.

In early 1963 brothers Peter and Malcolm came from The Porters Lodge, King Edward School, Vicarage Road. The Priory, home of the Cartlands had been demolished in 1940 following the death of Major Cartland, and the King Edward Camp Hill School moved there in the early fifties. Sisters Lorraine and Caroline lived at Brandwood House, having come from the army in Germany. In 1964 Jane came from Tindal Street School. Her address was Cocks Moor House, Grove Road, i.e. the flats opposite the school. In 1965, ten year old Paul came from Aden and lived in the Officers' Quarters, Dawberry Fields Road. He left for Germany in 1967. Janet came from Germany in 1965 and returned there in 1969. Brian also lived at the Officers' Quarters but went to Surrey in 1967. Jill came from Germany but after three months moved to Cyprus. Further pupils came from the Officers' Quarters in the sixties and seventies. Harbinder Sira Singh came from Kenya in 1973 and moved to Brandwood in 1975. In 1974, triplets Oliver, Simon and Guy came from the infants. They lived in Jasmine Croft off Broad Lane, but moved to Sharmans Cross later in the year.

The register going up to the late seventies was the last one I saw. Now there are no hand written registers as everything is on computer. This takes up less space but is not as interesting as handling actual books, so I pity future historians!